West German Thoughts on U.S. and German Economic Life

Part I - Knowledge of U.S. and German Economy

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INTRODUCTION

In keeping with one of the themes of the U.S. Information Agency, USIS Germany has made a major coordinated project out of the subject of the American economic system. Regardless of the slogan or title utilized to dramatize this subject, it is of fundamental importance to know just what the West German population knows, or thinks it knows about the American economy; and in what relationship they see it to their own economic life.

To provide the basic data which could later be utilized in planning the lines of approach to the German population on the difficult subject of the ever-expanding American economy, this study was designed to make as much information available as possible. In so planning, it was found neccessary to devise two separate questionnaires to be asked of two separate samples of the West German population. The resulting mass of data makes it impracticable to present all questions in one report. A number of reports will, therefore, appear in the coming weeks under the general title of "West German Thoughts on U.S. and German Economic Life."

This present report entitled "Part I - Knowledge of U.S. and German Economy" contains information on the level of knowledge of the American and German economies, as well as the West German understanding of the interrelation of the two economic systems.

The findings are based upon two probability samples each representative of the West German population 18 years of age and older. One comprises 1310 cases in West Germany and 220 in West Berlin, while the other consists of 1275 cases in West Germany and 189 in West Berlin.

Interviewing was conducted between February 18 and March 9, 1956 by DIVO - Gesellschaft fuer Markt- und Meinungsforschung m.b.H., Frankfurt/Main, a German survey organization working under contract with the Research Staff.

SUMMARY

Section I - Extent of Knowledge

Knowledge of the U.S. economy is fairly low in Western Germany. This can be seen in the simple fact that only about one out of four knows that Detroit is the automobile manufacturing center of the United States, while seven out of ten know that Hollywood is the film center.

Less than four people out of ten in West Germany think that there is a social security system in America, and only little more than one out of two believes that trade unions exist.

Of twelve selected major industries in the United States, in one instance only (Postal services) did a majority in West Germany have correct knowledge of who runs it. However, many are unaware who runs the same industries in West Germany. In four out of five instances where there is state control in West Germany, a large majority knew this. However, in the five examples of private ownership a bare majority was aware of this in only two cases. The West Berliners were somewhat better informed on the subject of industrial control in the United States and West Germany.

Two-thirds of the people in West Germany and almost everyone in West Berlin thinks that the United States is giving economic aid to some West European country at the present time. Only about one out of ten, however, really knows, in that they are able to name only those countries actually receiving aid. An additional four out of ten name some countries which are and some countries which are not receiving economic aid.

Section II - Interrelationship of German and American Economies

There is vast realization that the economic recovery of West Germany is due to American aid, and a strong belief that there is "extensive" cooperation between German and American businesses. Possibly because of this latter fact, almost two-thirds of the West Germans recognize that an American depression would have an adverse affect on the West German economy.

They do not feel the same fundamental interrelationship with the other countries of Western Europe, for only about one out of ten believes that an economic depression in some other West European country would have serious consequences in West Germany.

Based upon their ability to mention things which they feel are American aims in West Germany, there seems to be a greater awareness of American political aims than there is of American goals in the economic sphere.

Section I - Extent of Knowledge

ONLY ONE QUARTER KNOW DETROIT IS CAR MANUFACTURING CENTER.....

As an indication of one of the simplest tests of knowledge of the American economic scene, respondents were asked to name the American car metropolis.

There was little difference between the replies of the West Germans and the West Berliners to the question of where most of the American cars are manufactured. Slightly more than a quarter of both groups (26% in West Germany and 28% in West Berlin) could correctly identify Detroit. The overwhelming majority of both populations admitted that they simply did not know (64% and 60%).

"Do you know what the American car metropolis is called? (The place where most of the car factories are located?)"

	West Germany	West Berlin
Right, Detroit	26%	28%
Wrong: [illegible]	10	12
Don't know	64	60
	100%	100%

"AVERAGE" ESTIMATE OF AMERICAN CAR OWNERSHIP CORRECT - ALTHOUGH RANGE VARIES....

Although the median estimate as to the proportion of the American population owning an automobile makes the "average" German guess correct (namely, that approximately every fourth American owns a car) there was considerable range in the figures. In West Germany, 16% thought that at least every other American owned a car, while almost as many (12%) thought that fewer than one in fifty had an automobile.

"Can you tell me what proportion of the Americans own cars?" (CARD)

	West Germany	West Berlin
Almost everyone	2%	6%
Approximately every second American	14	16
Approximately every third	21	21
Approximately every fourth	15	10
Approximately every fifth	17	23
Approximately every tenth	15	10
Approximately every twentieth	2	3
Approximately every thirtieth	1	2
Aprroximately every fortieth	1	2
Approximately every fiftieth	*	2
Fewer than every fiftieth	12	3
No opinion	*	2
	100%	100%

"AVERAGE" GERMAN ALSO CORRECTLY ESTIMATES GERMAN CAR OWNERSHIP....

As was found concerning estimates of American car ownership, in both West Germany and in West Berlin, the median estimate as to the proportion of the population owning an automobile in the Federal Republic also comes out to be the correct figure, although the spread ranges all the way from every third person to fewer than every fiftieth. The true figure is one car for every twenty-seven people.

"And what proportion of the residents of the Federal Republic own cars?" (CARD)

	West Germany	West Berlin
Almost everyone	*	-
Approximately every second West German	*	1%
Approximately every third	1%	1
Approximately every fourth	1	2
Approximately every fifth	2	5
Approximately every tenth	16	21
Approximately every twentieth	21	16
Approximately every thirtieth	12	10
Approximately every fortieth	9	7
Approximately every fiftieth	8	8
Fewer than every fiftieth	15	6
No opinion	15	23
	100%	100%

* Less than one half of one per cent.

GREAT MAJORITIES KNOW HOLLYWOOD IS U.S. FILM CENTER....

As previously shown a small minority of the West German population could correctly identify Detroit as the U.S. city where most of the American automobiles are manufactured. When they were asked to name the American movie capital, however, great majorities knew that it was Hollywood. Almost seven out of ten (69%) in West Germany and over eight out of ten (83%) in West Berlin came up with the right answer.

The considerable difference in knowledge of these two cities may be taken as outstanding examples of the power of advertising through mass media. The movie industry has a well-oiled machinery for publicity about all of its activities (including the "made in Hollywood" angle). Other American cities are not as fortunate. As well known as American automobiles are in West Germany, as the results show, majorities are not aware that Detroit is the center. Indeed, as shown in another report* even Washington, D.C., is not correctly identified as the capital of the United States by as many people as can correctly identify Hollywood as the movie capital.

"Can you name the American movie capital? (The place where nearly all American films are produced?)"

	West Germany	West Berlin
Right, Hollywood or Los Angles	69%	83%
Wrong:.....	2	3
Don't know	29	14
	100%	100%

* Percentages of 58% and 73%, in West Germany and in West Berlin cited Washington as the capital of the U.S. (Report No. 232, May 7, 1956, "A West German Perspective of U.S. Politics and Culture.")

WHILE MAJORITY AWARE THAT THERE ARE TRADE UNIONS IN THE U.S., MANY ARE NOT....

A majority (57%) in West Germany and eight out of ten (82%) in West Berlin are aware that there are trade unions in the United States. Interest might well be directed, however, to the 5% who think that there are none in the U.S. or to that relatively large group (38% in West Germany and 13% in West Berlin) who do not know whether there are any or not.

"Do you perhaps know whether or not trade unions exist in the U.S.?"

	West Germany	West Berlin
Yes, there are trade unions	57%	82%
No, there are no trade unions	5	5
Don't know/No answer	38	13
	100%	100%

CONSIDERABLE UNCERTAINTY, HOWEVER, CONCERNING THE TYPES OF UNIONS IN THE U.S....

While a majority of the people in West Germany say they know that there are trade unions in the U.S., there is some doubt as to just how much they really know about unions in America. Those who answered that there were trade unions in America, were asked a further question concerning the type or form that the unions have there. Five different forms were listed on a card which was offered for their inspection. There was a considerable splintering of responses, so that almost equal proportions thought that there is one all-embracing union (which is the case now with the merger of the AFL and CIO), that there are craft unions, that there are industrial unions, or simply admitted that they did not know. There were even small percentages who thought that there were "Christian" unions or party-oriented unions such as are familiar to many in Germany.

IF "Yes, there are trade unions":
"Can you tell me which of the following forms of unions is known there?" (CARD)

	West Germany	West Berlin
One single union embracing workers of all crafts and from all industries	15%	18%
Christian unions	5	11
Unions of individual crafts	11	19
Unions for the individual branches of industry	19	35
Party-oriented unions	3	1
Don't know	12	15
	65%@	99%@

FEWER THAN FOUR OUT OF TEN IN WEST GERMANY THINK THERE IS A SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM IN THE U.S.....
EVEN LESS KNOWLEDGE AS TO WHETHER IT IS PRIVATE OR STATE SPONSORED....

When asked whether there is a social security system in the United States less than four people out of ten in West Germany replied in the affirmative (39%). Almost as many were sure that there was none (28%).

West Berliners were, on the whole, more informed. While a majority of them (54%) were of the opinion that there was a social security system in the U.S., as in West Germany, a sizeable group (28%) answered firmly that there was none.

In both West Germany and in West Berlin 17% of both groups, while answering that there was a social security system in the United States, did not know whether it was a private or a state-sponsored system. Of the remaining 22% in West Germany who said that they knew, 14% said that it was a private system, while of the 37% in West Berlin who said that they knew, 24% said that it was a state-sponsored system!

"Do you know whether or not there is a social security system in the U.S.?" (IF "Yes": is it in private hands or is it state-sponsored?)

	West Germany		West Berlin	
Yes, private system	14%		13%	
Yes, state-sponsored system	8		24	
Yes, but don't know whether private or state-sponsored system	17	39%	17	54%
No, no social security system exists	28		28	
Don't know	33		18	
	100%		100%	

CONSIDERABLE OVERESTIMATION OF THE PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS OWNING STOCKS AND BONDS - FIGURE PUT AT 15% ....

It is often pointed out that there is a broad base of participation in the American economic system. One of the statistics cited is the fact that 7,000,000 Americans own industrial shares in America's big enterprizes. If the truth corresponded with the "average German's" belief, some 24,000,000 Americans would be the proud owners of stocks and bonds. Only 52% of the West Germans and 77% of the West Berliners would estimate the percentage of the American population which they felt owned shares in the big firms. The "median figure" in West Germany was around 15%, while West Berliners thought that it was even higher (the median response was around 22%).

"What percentage of the American people would you estimate own bonds and shares of big firms and business enterprises?" (CARD)

	West Germany	West Berlin
A negligible percentage	1%	1%
Between 1 and 5 percent	6	5
Between 6 and 10 percent	12	14
Between 11 and 20 percent	15	15
Between 21 and 30 percent	11	22
More than 30 percent	7	20
No opinion	48	23
	100%	100%

ABOUT 5% OF GERMAN POPULATION THOUGHT TO OWN STOCKS AND BONDS....

Utilizing the same yardstick as was used in presenting the data on estimated ownership of stocks and bonds in th U.S. - the hypothetical average figure - the people in West Germany believe that about 5% of the West German population owns bonds.

Unfortunately accurate data on the true extent of German bond ownership is not available for comparison with public opinion, as was possible to do concerning the situation in the United States. Nevertheless, it is interesting to note that exaggerated as their estimate of bond ownership in the U.S. may be, it is fully three times as great as is felt to be true in West Germany.

"And how is the situation over here in West Germany? - What percentage of the population of West Germany own bonds and shares of big firms and business enterprises?" (CARD)

	West Germany (1310)	West Berlin (220)
A negligible percentage	8%	7%
Between 1 and 5 percent	27	31
Between 6 and 10 percent	16	22
Between 11 and 20 percent	9	18
Between 21 and 30 percent	4	4
More than 30 percent	1	2
No opinion	35	16
	100%	100%

U.S. POSTAL SERVICES ONLY BUSINESS AREA WHERE MAJORITY OF WEST GERMANS KNOW WHO RUNS IT ...

Of the twelve industries, branches of trade or business presented to respondents in West Germany for decision as to whether it was in the hands of the government or in private hands, in only one instance did a majority make the correct decision ... postal services. Although two-thirds (66%) of the people in West Germany indicated that the postal system was in government hands in the U.S., some three-tenths (29%) could not decide.

The extent of West German ignorance concerning these twelve business areas is considerable. Of the twelve items listed, eleven are in private hands, while the postal system was the sole example of a government operation. Despite this fact, "telecommunications" and "railroads" were considered government run (by 50% and 34% respectively). In seven instances, only pluralities tended to know that the business areas were run by private companies rather than by the government. In the remaining two cases ("air transportation" and "power production"), it must be said, from the replies giving almost equal weight to private or state operation, that the West German population does not really know in whose hands these industries are.

"Which industries, branches of trade or business are, as far as you know, in the hands of the government in the U.S.? (CARD) And which are in private hands?"

	West Germany			
	Private hands	Official hands	Partly/ partly	No opinion
Postal services (stamps, etc.)	3%	66%	2%	29%..100%
Telecommunications	10	50	6	34
Railroads	27	34	10	29
Highway transportation	47	5	11	37
Insurance system	47	8	10	35
Oil production	39	16	12	33
Steel industry	38	15	13	34
Shipping	37	15	15	33
Coal and ore mining	34	16	14	36
Radio and television	33	17	7	43
Air transportation	28	27	14	31
Power production	23	27	12	38

WEST BERLINERS SOMEWHAT BETTER INFORMED ...

The people of West Berlin are more informed than those in the Federal Republic concerning who operates these selected industries. In six of the twelve instances majorities in West Berlin indicated that they knew in whose hands the industry was. These six were:

Postal services	- 77% said in official hands
Highway transportation	- 64% said in private hands
Insurance system	- 60% said in private hands
Oil production	- 55% said in private hands
Shipping	- 54% said in private hands
Radio and television	- 53% said in private hands

Still, it must be pointed out that even in West Berlin, there were three cases where the largest percentages erroneously thought that the industry in America was operated by the government:

Telecommunications	- 58% (vs 24% saying private operation)
Railroads	- 43% (vs 37% saying private operation)
Power production	- 41% (vs 27% saying private operation)

"Which industries, branches of trade or business are, as far as you know, in the hands of the government in the U.S.? (CARD) And which are in private hands?"

	West Berlin			
	Private hands	Official hands	Partly/ partly	No opinion
Postal services	10%	77%	2%	11%..100%
Highway transportation	64	8	8	20
Insurance system	60	16	13	11
Oil production	55	26	10	9
Shipping	54	20	12	14
Radio and television	53	20	4	23
Steel industry	49	22	14	15
Air transportation	40	38	10	12
Coal and ore mining	38	30	16	16
Railroads	37	43	12	8
Power production	27	41	14	18
Telecommunications	24	58	4	14

MANY WEST GERMANS UNAWARE WHO RUNS INDUSTRIES IN WEST GERMANY ...

The same list of twelve industries were again presented to respondents, who were asked the second time, who ran these industries or businesses in West Germany. In the United States only one of the twelve is government operated (Postal services), but in West Germany five are government operated, five are in private hands, and two may be considered jointly operated.

In West Germany knowledge concerning those areas which are in state hands is greater than that concerning businesses which are in private hands. In four of the five instances where there is state ownership and control, a large majority knew this, but in the five examples of private ownership, a bare majority was aware of this in only two cases.

The replies concerning the instances of state control are as follows:

Postal services	- 96%	(vs 1% saying it was in private hands)
Railroads	- 93%	(vs 1% saying it was in private hands)
Telecommunications	- 84%	(vs 3% saying it was in private hands)
Radio and television	- 65%	(vs 17% saying it was in private hands)
Power production	- 42%	(vs 26% saying it was in private hands)

The lesser knowledge concerning those industrial areas in private hands can be seen in the following data:

Steel production	- 55%	(vs 13% saying it was in government hands)
Highway transportation	- 53%	(vs 7% saying it was in government hands)
Shipping	- 46%	(vs 18% saying it was in government hands)
Coal and ore production	- 42%	(vs 21% saying it was in government hands)
Oil production	- 35%	(vs 27% saying it was in government hands)

The two instances where state and private operation overlap are the insurance system (where the major share is under state control), and air transportation (where most shares are in private hands, but the government does have a sizeable interest). In both cases popular opinion in West Germany is in direct opposition to the true situation. A majority believes air transportation to be in government hands (52% vs 20% saying it is in private hands), while most of the people answering the question concerning the insurance system thought that it was in private hands (47% as against only 12% saying it is in the hands of the government).

"Can you tell me which industries, branches of trade or business are in the hands of the government and which are in private hands here in West Germany?" (CARD)

	West Germany			
	Private hands	Official hands	Partly/ partly	No opinion
Postal services	1%	96%	*%	3%..100%
Railroads	1	93	2	4
Telecommunications	3	84	3	10
Radio and television	17	65	7	11
Air transportation	20	52	12	16
Power production	26	42	20	12
Oil production	35	27	14	24
Coal and ore mining	42	21	23	14
Shipping	46	18	22	14
Steel industry	55	13	18	14
Insurance system	47	12	30	11
Highway transportation	53	7	26	14

WEST BERLINERS ALSO SLIGHTLY BETTER INFORMED ABOUT OWNERSHIP OF GERMAN INDUSTRIES ...

Large majorities in West Berlin are aware which industries are state controlled. With respect to those industries which are in private hands or partly in private hands, the people of West Berlin are no better informed than those of West Germany. The comments previously made about the insurance system and air transportation in West Germany also apply here. Namely, public opinion appears to be in contradiction to fact for most people consider the insurance system to be in private hands and air transportation to be in the hands of the government.

	West Berlin			
	Private hands	Official hands	Partly/ partly	No opinion
Postal services	1%	97%	-%	2%..100%
Railroads	2	94	2	2
Telecommunications	4	88	2	6
Power production	14	74	10	2
Radio and television	20	71	4	5
Air transportation	25	62	8	5
Coal and ore mining	37	40	15	8
Oil production	35	31	11	23
Steel industry	54	26	16	4
Shipping	54	19	25	2
Insurance system	49	18	32	1
Highway transportation	60	9	25	6

MAJORITY SAYS WEST GERMAN BUSINESS ENTERPRISES DIRECTED BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS ...

The largest percentage of the people in West Germany and in West Berlin answered that the business enterprises in West Germany are generally directed by private groups (37% in West Germany and 43% in West Berlin). The next largest group in both areas felt that the government generally controlled the enterprises (24% in West Germany and 40% in West Berlin). When to the first group, one adds the percentages for those who felt that private individuals generally controlled the business in Germany (16% and 10%), there is a clear majority (53% in both West Germany and Berlin) who consider business to be in private rather than government hands.

"Who generally controls the business enterprises in West Germany, in your opinion? Are business enterprises, as a rule, directed by individuals, by private groups, or by the government?"

	West Germany	West Berlin
By individuals	16%	10%
By groups	37	43
By the government	24	40
Partly/partly	5	1
No opinion	18	6
	100%	100%

The large degree of ignorance in West Germany concerning the economic facts of life are well exemplified in the answers to this question. The wording used, "Who generally controls the business enterprises in West Germany ...", in the original German called to mind the stores, businesses, and factories which are in fact all in private hands in West Germany. These are not the major branches of industry, such as listed in the other question already discussed, where the government does control a number. Therefore, the quarter to four-tenths of the population who answered that the government generally controlled the business enterprises are factually wrong. Their replies, however, reveal the strength of the belief that the government must have a controlling interest even where none exists. This belief can also be seen in the answers to the previous question concerning the major industries in West Germany. Since the list was evenly balanced, there should have been as many answering "in private hands" as answered "in official hands." Anyone taking the trouble to average their replies would have found that in West Germany 44% chose government control as against 29% for private control. In West Berlin the picture is even sharper. There, 53% said government control, as against 30% saying private control.

LARGE MAJORITIES THINK U.S. ECONOMIC AID BEING GIVEN TO MANY WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES.....

Two-thirds of the people in West Germany (67%) and almost everyone in West Berlin (91%) considers it a fact that the United States is giving economic aid to some West European country at the present time. Not all of the people, however, who believe that the United States is giving economic aid are correct in their belief. As can be seen in the following table only 9% of the people in West Germany and 13% in West Berlin in naming the countries which they believed to be recipients named only those countries which are really receiving aid. Another 30% in West Germany and 60% in West Berlin named countries which are receiving aid, but they also named countries which in fact are not receiving aid.

"Do you know whether or not some West European countries receive economic aid from the U.S. at present?"

IF "Yes":
"Which?"

	West Germany	West Berlin
Yes, right (only right countries)	9%	13%
Yes, right (right countries and others)	39	60
Yes, wrong (only wrong countries)	13	14
Yes (no country named)	6	4
	67%	91%

The following complete list of the countries named as receiving U.S. economic aid shows that just about every single country in Europe was named. And since the average person named almost three countries, the number of incorrect responses outnumbers the maximum percentage that might be considered as correct. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that almost as many people believe France is receiving aid as named West Germany.

The inexactitude of popular belief is further seen in the replies of "West Germany" as a recipient of aid, since actually it is only West Berlin and not West Germany, which is the recipient of American generosity.

"Do you know whether or not some West European countries receive economic aid from the U.S. at present?"

IF "Yes":
"Which?"

	West Germany	West Berlin
Right		
West Germany (Berlin)	40%	67%
Spain	8	10
Yugoslavia	7	11
Wrong		
France	39	54
Italy	32	49
Great Britain	15	25
Netherlands	11	5
Greece	5	7
Belgium	4	6
Austria	3	7
Turkey	3	3
Luxembourg	2	2
Norway	1	2
Denmark	1	*
Non-European States	1	*
East-Bloc-Countries	*	2
Sweden	*	2
Portugal	*	*
Switzerland	*	-
Finland	*	-
Iceland	-	*
	172%@	252%@

@ Some respondents gave more than one answer.
* Less than one half of one percent.

Section II - Interrelationship of German and American Economies

EXTENSIVE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT GERMAN ECONOMIC RECOVERY DUE TO U.S. ....

Almost three-quarters (74%) of the people of West Germany and almost all (95%) of the people of West Berlin agree that the United States had at least "some" influence on the economic recovery of West Germany after the war. In fact, great majorities go as far as saying that the U.S. had "great" or "very great" influence (58% in West Germany and 83% in West Berlin).

"In your opinion, how much influence did the U.S have on the economic recovery of West Germany after the war?" (CARD)

	West Germany	West Berlin
Very great influence	24%	44%
Great influence	34	39
Some influence	16	12
Little influence	3	1
Almost no influence	5	1
No opinion	18	3
	100%	100%

INFLUX OF AMERICAN MONEY MENTIONED MOST OFTEN AS EXAMPLE OF HELP.....

In answering the question as to how America influenced the recovery of West Germany after the war, by far the largest block of answers concerned the financial help which was received (44% in West Germany and 68% in West Berlin).

"In your opinion, how much influence did the U.S. have on the economic recovery of West Germany after the war? (CARD)"

IF "Very great influence," "Great influence", "Some influence", or "Little influence":
"How did the U.S. influence the recovery of West Germany after the war?"

	West Germany	West Berlin
Financial Help:	44%	68%
"We got loans from the States to reconstruct West Germany's industry."		
"American dollars helped us to get back on our feet, and develop our working power to full capacity."		
"Without American capital, we wouldn't have recovered from our crushing defeat in such a short time."		
""Without financial help from the States, our economy wouldn't have recovered."		
"Big factories could be reconstructed through the Marshall Plan."		
"It has promoted West Germany's recovery by granting financial aid to big industrial enterprises (ERP)."		
Supply of Food:	15	12
"They have sent us wheat."		
"The U.S. has supplied us with food stuffs."		
"The food shipments were a big help."		
"We got food from the States."		
Deliveries of raw material and goods:	11	10
"The Americans supplied us with raw materials."		
"They sent us many goods and raw materials."		
"America provided us with machines which we badly needed after the war."		
"They sent clothing and shoes."		
General answers:	10	11
"The Americans have helped us in every respect."		
"The Americans helped us to get back on our feet."		
"There was an aid program in all fields."		
"We were aided through the advice of American economic experts."		
Private relief actions:	6	13
"The gift parcels from the American people saved many Germans from starving."		
"The free food deliveries helped."		
"They helped by sending CARE parcels."		
"By providing us with CARE parcels and other gifts."		

(cont'd on next page)

(Cont'd from preceding page)

	West Germany	West Berlin
Marshall Plan (Without any supplementary remark):	6%	12%
Trade relations:	4	6
"The Americans placed orders with us. There was an extensive exchange of goods." "They helped by importing German goods." "They established a brisk trade between the two countries."		
Discontinuance of the dismantling program:	1	-
"America ordered the dismantling program to be stopped." "They didn't turn Germany into an agricultural state."		
Air lift:	*	5
"They helped us with the air lift."		
Other answers:	4	2
"The fact that freedom of opportunity has been introduced in Germany after the war, has favorably influenced our recovery." "American support in the scientific field was important." "Their psychological aid."		
No opinion/no answer:	4	3
	105%@	142%@

@ Some respondents gave more than one answer.
* Less than one half of one percent.

EXTENSIVE COOPERATION BETWEEN GERMAN AND AMERICAN BUSINESSES SEEN....

More than four out of ten (42%) in West Germany and more than half of the people in West Berlin (56%) consider the cooperation between German and American businesses to be "extensive" or "very extensive". Only one in twenty thinks there is little connection.

"In your opinion, how extensive at present is the cooperation between American and German business and industry: Very extensive, extensive, so-so, limited, or very limited?"

	West Germany	West Berlin
Very extensive	11%	20%
Extensive	31	36
So-so	33	33
Limited	4	2
Very limited	1	2
No opinion	20	7
	100%	100%

CONTINUANCE OR INCREASE IN BUSINESS COOPERATION FAVORED....

The great majority of the people in West Germany (70%) and in West Berlin (89%) would either like to have the present state of cooperation between German and American business continued as it is or increased. In both areas the larger percentage actually favors increasing the present extent of cooperation, while less than 10% in both West Germany and in West Berlin would want to have it reduced (8% and 6% respectively).

"In your opinion, should the cooperation between German and American business and industry be increased or reduced, or should it remain as it is?"

	West Germany (1275)	West Berlin (189)
Should be increased	37%	66%
Should be reduced	8	6
Should remain as it is	33	23
No opinion	22	5
	100%	100%

RECOGNITION THAT AMERICAN DEPRESSION WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT GERMANY....

Almost two-thirds of the West Germans (61% in the Federal Republic and 66% in West Berlin) feel that an American depression would have some influence upon the prosperity of West Germany. The largest percentage (35% in West Germany and 38% in West Berlin) feel that such a depression would "strongly" or "very strongly" result in a decline in West Germany's present prosperity, while an additional quarter think that it would only have "some" or a "little" affect.

While there is general agreement that an American depression would have deliterious effects on the state of the West German economy, more than two out of ten (22%) in West Germany and more than three out of ten (32%) in West Berlin seem to think that an American depression would have "very little" or "no" influence upon the German economy.

"Supposing the U.S. would experience a depression, that is, serious economic difficulties, do you think prosperity here in the Federal Republic would decline as a consequence? (IF 'Yes': Would these consequences be very strongly felt, strongly, in some degree, little or only very little felt)"

	West Germany (1310)		West Berlin (220)	
Yes, very strongly	11%		13%	
Yes, strongly	24	35%	25	38%
Yes, in some degree	17		17	
Yes, little	6	23	8	25
Yes, very little	3		3	
No	19	22	29	32
No opinion	20		5	
	100%		100%	

CONTINUED GERMAN ECONOMIC DEPENDENCE UPON U.S. CITED BY THOSE SEEING GERMAN SUSCEPTABILITY TO AMERICAN DEPRESSION....

Those people (the 61% in West Germany and 66% in West Berlin) who felt that the West German prosperity would be affected by a possible American depression mainly pointed to continued German dependence upon the U.S. as the reason for their opinion.

"Supposing the U.S would experience a depression, that is, serious economic difficulties, do you think prosperity here in the Federal Republic would decline as a consequence? (IF "Yes": Would those consequences be very strongly felt, strongly, in some degree, little or only very little felt?)"

IF "Yes, very strongly", "Yes, strongly", "Yes, in some degree", "Yes, little", or "Yes, very little":
"Why are you of this opinion?"

	West Germany	West Berlin
West Germany is economically dependent on the U.S.:	38%	44%
"There are extensive economic and financial connections between West Germany and the U.S., and thus we also might have difficulties if there were a depression in the States."		
"Because our economic recovery, or rather, our whole economic system, is closely tied to the American economy."		
"In the economic sector we are still dependent on the Americans in many ways. We need raw materials, for instance."		
"We are by no means so strong economically as to be able to get along without American support."		
"We concluded trade agreements with America and our whole economy is adapted to this arrangement. Therefore, we are dependent on the Americans."		
"America would cancel the orders it has placed with German firms. Then too, some of the money invested and financial aid would be withdrawn."		
"The Americans finance our economy. We are dependent on them."		
The U.S. could no longer assist West Germany:	8	9
"The Yanks support us at present. They couldn't do this anymore if the U.S. were plunged into a depression."		
"The Americans aid us, as it is. This would not be possible any longer if times were hard over there."		
"The Americans have been a great help providing food as well as funds to other nations. They might withdraw their support."		
"At present America abounds in just everything, but if it were headed for a depression, it couldn't help us any longer."		
"Because they have been lending us a hand whenever it's needed."		
The West German economy is no longer so dependent:	5	8
"Eisenhower's illness had little effect on the economic life of the nation, and the flurry at the stock exchange was hardly felt over here."		
"We are no longer so dependent on the U.S."		
"By now, we can work independently once more."		

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	West Germany	West Berlin
A depression in the U.S. would have repercussions throughout the world:	4%	3%
"If a thing like that happens in the U.S., the whole world will suffer."		
"America is a world power, and we are all more or less dependent on each other."		
"The world economy is an inseparable unit. No part of it must be allowed to decay."		
The East would exploit the situation:	*	1
"In that case the Russians would soon take over, and then we'd fare just as badly as in times of depression."		
"The Eastern peril would loom larger."		
Other answers:	4	3
"If Messrs. Adenauer and Eisenhower weren't at the helm of their governments any longer, the whole fabric of the economic life would be changed."		
"Even Mr. Eisenhower's illness caused a considerable decline in exchanges."		
"It depends on the government in power at such a time. They'd have to be on the ball."		
No opinion/no answer:	2	*
	61%@	68%@

@ Some respondents gave more than one answer.
* Less than one half of one percent.

BELIEF THAT GERMAN ECONOMY IS STRONG AND INDEPENDENT ADVANCED BY THOSE FEELING GERMAN ECONOMY WOULD BE UNAFFECTED BY AMERICAN DEPRESSION....

Most of those who thought that Germany's prosperity would not be altered if America experienced a depression, advanced the position that West Germany's economy is strong and independent.

"Supposing the U.S. would experience a depression, that is, serious economic difficulties, do you think prosperity here in the Federal Republic would decline as a consequence?"

IF "No":
"Why are you of this opinion?"

	West Germany	West Berlin
The West German economy is growing strong and independent:	13%	25%
"As things are today, we are economically independent."		
"Today our economy rests on a solid basis and thus we do not depend on the U.S. any longer."		
"We could get along on our own. After all, business and industry are going full blast."		
"After having worked our way up, our position is such as to make us immune to such a development."		
"I'm sure the Germans are able to stand on their own legs."		
"German business and industry have grown so strong by now as not to be affected in such a case."		
West Germany maintains commercial relations with a great many other nations:	2	4
"Even without the U.S. as a customer, we have plenty of other nations to which to sell our goods."		
"Germany is a recognized power on the world market. We do not sell much to the Americans, so if there should be a depression in the U.S., we could expand our trade with the East."		
"Because our trade volume with other countries is steadily increasing."		
Other answers:	3	3
"In that case we would help the Americans in our turn, as we are quite prosperous in Germany."		
"Our government could utilize its experience to prevent a decline of business and industry in our country."		
"Then we needn't pay back the loans we've received."		
No opinion/no anser:	1	-
	19%	32%@

@ Some respondents gave more than one answer.

WEST GERMAN ECONOMY SEEN UNAFFECTED BY DEPRESSIONS IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES...

While most West Germans were willing to grant a certain economic dependence upon the United States, they do not feel the same fundamental interrelationship with the other countries of Western Europe. Only about one out of ten (6% in West Germany, 10% in West Berlin) believes that an economic depression is some other European country, such as England or France, would have a great influence upon the West German economy. On the other hand, about one out of two (48% and 57%) thinks that such a depression in another European country would have no influence on the economic situation in Western Germany.

"If some other West European country, such as England or France, would experience serious economic difficulties, do you believe this would fundamentally influence the economic situation in our country, or don't you think so? (Would it have great or little influence?)"

	West Germany (1310)	West Berlin (220)
Would have great influence	6%	10%
Would have little influence	28	29
Would have no influence	48	57
No opinion	18	4
	100%	100%

AMERICAN AIMS FOR GERMANY - IN THE ECONOMIC FIELD - GREATER EFFICIENCY AND FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM ...

The people of West Germany apparently are more aware of American political aims in Germany, than they are of American economic aims. In response to a question asking for America's economic and political aims in West Germany, only 45% could name economic goals pursued by the U.S., whereas, 57% could name political aims.

While most of the people in West Germany (55%) could not think of any economic ideas or views America might be trying to advocate in West Germany, most of those who could mentioned:

Greater efficiency and mechanization (16%, 29% in Berlin)
The free enterprise system (14%, 12% in Berlin)

Very few of the comments (6% in West Germany and 7% in West Berlin) could be considered critical of the United States.

"Which of its ideas and views do you think America tries to advocate here in West Germany and to explain to us?"

"First in the economic sector?"

	West Germany	West Berlin
Greater efficiency and mechanization:	16%	29%
"They want us to produce more through the application of more efficient working methods." "We should produce things in a more modern and more efficient way." "Simplification of work processes and mechanization in the factories." "They want us to work more efficiently." "More machinery should be put to use in agriculture. That is to say, economic efficiency should in all cases be regarded as the prime factor." "More efficient working methods, conveyor belts."		
The free enterprise system:	14	12
"It was the principle of unrestricted trade, which was the first thing they brought us." "A free economy is the best form of economy. Only competition can bring good results." "They advocate the free market economy and the principle of unhampered trade." "The free economy, based on the principle of success in spite of strong competition." "An economy with as little governmental regimentation as possible."		
German reconstruction will bring about a higher German standard of living:	4	10
"They want to help us get ahead and they want to make us strong economically." "America wants to be instrumental in raising our standard of living, so that we won't have to live like the people in the East." "By giving assistance to our industry, they want to improve the employment situation and to secure a certain prosperity for us." "They want to make us economically strong so that we can forge ahead and rebuild the country."		
Economic cooperation is mutually beneficial:	4	2
"A bilateral trade agreement with consideration of all mutual interests." "Trade, free exchange of persons and a firm trust in this partnership are the best guarantees for a lasting peace." "They advocate the idea of mutual assistance."		

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	West Germany	West Berlin
Economic strengthening of West Germany as a means of protection against Communism:	2%	3%
"They want to strengthen us economically, so that we can withstand the pressure from the East." "Economic prosperity should prevent us from falling a prey to Communism." "They want to strengthen us economically in order to make us strong against Communism. They don't want us to disappear in the Communist camp."		
Miscellaneous comments:	6	9
"They tell us that America is the country with the most excellent economy." "They work 40 hours per week." "They talk about their housebuilding methods. I'm thinking of those many sky-scrapers, which, after all, is the American style."		
CRITICAL COMMENTS		
They want West Germany as an export market:	4	4
"I think they want to make profits. They need export markets for their surplus products." "America wants to get rid of its products here." "They try to get rid of their products in our country and they want to make greater profits out of this."		
Other critical comments:	2	3
"They want to make us economically dependent." "They seek to transplant the American craving for profits."		
No opinion/no answer:	55	38
	107%@	110%@

@ Some respondents gave more than one answer.

(Cont'd from preceding page)

	West Germany	West Berlin
Economic strengthening of West Germany as a means of protection against Communism:	2%	3%
"They want to strengthen us economically, so that we can withstand the pressure from the East." "Economic prosperity should prevent us from falling a prey to Communism." "They want to strengthen us economically in order to make us strong against Communism. They don't want us to disappear in the Communist camp."		
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Other critical comments:	2	3
"They want to make us economically dependent." "They seek to transplant the American craving for profits."		
No opinion/no answer:	55	38
	107%@	110%@

@ Some respondents gave more than one answer.

AMERICAN AIMS FOR GERMANY - IN THE POLITICAL FIELD - A GERMAN DEMOCRATIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT AND ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENSE AGAINST COMMUNISM ...

In the political sector, the two aims most often mentioned as America's goals in West Germany are:

A democratic form of government (32% in West Germany and 37% Berlin)
Establishment of a defense against Communism (16% in West Germany, and 20% in Berlin)

"Which of its ideas and views do you think America tries to advocate here in West Germany and to explain to us?"

"And in the political sector?"

	West Germany	West Berlin
Democratic form of government:	32%	37%
"They want to guide us on the path toward a free and democratic future."		
"They want to make us see the advantages inherent in a democratic system."		
"They want to make it clear that the people have a right to share in the political decisions of their country."		
"They want us to adhere to democratic principles and not to swing towards a dictatorship once more."		
"They want us to become democrats. That's why they installed Adenauer in office. It was the Americans who placed him at the head of our government, after all."		
"They point to their country as a model of democracy at work."		
Defense against Communism:	16	20
"They want to prevent Communism from gaining ground over here. Germany must not be contaminated."		
"They want to convince us that nothing good will ever come to us through Communism."		
"The Americans saved Europe from being swamped by Communism. Now all forces must unite to defend Europe against the danger from the East."		
"America wants to join forces with West Europe to build a bloc against Bolshevism."		
"They want to make us break with the East for good by convincing us of the advantages of democracy."		

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	West Germany	West Berlin
Individual freedom, free expression of opinion:	6%	8%
"They propagate the idea of personal freedom as the most precious possession of the individual." "Above all, the idea of personal freedom." "They advocate a great measure of personal freedom, especially for the younger generation." "Freedom of thought in political matters and free expression of one's convictions."		
Raising a new German army:	4	4
"They champion a soldierly training as it is accepted in the Western countries." "They want us Germans to be able to defend ourselves." "They support us in setting up a new army by providing arms and instructors."		
Unification of the free nations, a united Europe:	3	7
"America tries to achieve a unification of Europe." "They want to help spread the European idea." "The basic idea is to promote a united Europe."		
Friendship between all nations, world peace:	2	2
"Due to their influence, we've become much more open-minded towards other nations." "They want to promote friendship between all nations of this world so that there won't be another war." "They seek to foster understanding between the different peoples."		
Reunification and independence for Germany:	1	1
"They feel Germany must be reunited." "They want to contribute towards the reunification of Germany."		
Miscellaneous answers:	3	6
"There are only two major political parties in the U.S. and that's a very good thing." "They want to prevent a comeback of the Nazis over here."		

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	West Germany	West Berlin
CRITICAL COMMENTS		
Raising a new German army:	2%	1%
"They want us as soldiers to pull the chestnuts out of the fire." "They want to enlist our help as there might be another war some day. That's all they are after." "The Americans want to force us to set up a new army."		
Democratic form of government:	1	3
"The Americans introduced democratic ideas over here, but in spite of this, we are hardly allowed to take a hand in developments." "They've introduced the democratic form of government without living up to democratic ideals." "They want to persuade us to accept their form of democracy. But this doesn't quite fit us as we have a different mental setup."		
Defense against Russia and Communism:	1	2
"They are looking for people who are so dumb as to fight for them against the Russians." "The Americans think we will come in handy as cannon fodder in a conflict with the Russians."		
Other criticisms:	2	2
"They support us only in the political sector, because they want to have a reason for staying on and gaining a firm footing here." "They want to convince us that only when we are under their wing will we be happy."		
No opinion/no answer:	43	33
	116%@	126%@

@ Some respondents gave more than one answer.

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